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## Baroness opens town's new railway facility

# CAR PARK A 'MILESTONE'

**A NEW "milestone" multi-storey car park was opened by the Minister for Transport at Banbury Station on Monday.**

Baroness Kramer cut the ribbon of the 707-space, four-storey car park, which is part of £10m investment in the future of the station.

Located off Bridge Street, it has access to the station via a covered walkway and bridge to the concourse and platforms.

It is the first stage in the redevelopment of the station which will also see a new station bridge, waiting area and new toilets.

Baroness Kramer said: "I was pleased to open Banbury station's new car park, which

**By Helen Wright**

will make a huge difference for its increasing number of passengers.

"Our funding has helped create a more attractive, environmentally-friendly and passenger-focused station, thanks to its new cycling facilities and electric car-charging capacity.

"Our railways are an important engine for economic growth, getting people and goods where they need to go. That is why £38bn is being invested to improve and maintain them over the next five years."

The car park was funded by

the Department for Transport and delivered by Chiltern Railways.

Rob Brighouse, managing director at Chiltern Railways, said: "The car park is a real milestone for Banbury Station and is part of our ongoing commitment to give our passengers a high-quality experience when travelling with us."

The venture has caused some controversy in the town after it was passed after a U-turn vote by Cherwell councillors in March, 2013.

Planning officer Simon Dean said at a meeting in February, 2013, that the development would have an "unacceptable level of over-dominance" over

flats in Merton Road and would leave an unacceptable traffic imprint.

He later dropped his objections.

Residents sent in 44 letters opposing the plans and a petition signed by 123 people was also submitted to the council last year.

Chiltern Railways fought for the new development after claiming passenger demand grew 100 per cent for Banbury Station between 2003 and 2011 and was expected to grow a further 38 per cent by 2018.

The number of spaces grew from 254 in 2005 to 631 to 2013, with leases for 369 spaces expiring in August 2013.

Banbury mayor Sean Woodcock said: "It is great that Chiltern Railways is investing in remaining in Banbury, as the company employs lots of people in the town."

"I know there are a few people who were concerned about the location that it is in and we have to hope that the concerns that they have prove to be misgivings, but we will have to wait and see about that."



**Baroness Kramer officially opens the car park at Banbury station, watched by Chiltern Railways MD Rob Brighouse**

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EDITOR

Simon O'Neill 01865 425450

NEWS EDITOR

Keeley Rodgers 01865 425500

PICTURE EDITOR

Leah McLaren 01865 425446

Email letters to  
letters@banburycake.co.uk

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## Police in call for clues on CCTV images

A **STOLEN** car was used by two thieves believed to have snatched cigarettes in a raid on a shop.

The green Ford Fiesta was taken from a house in Goulds Villas, Banbury, and later seen in Brackley before the break-in at the town's Co-op.

The car was later found burned out near Horwell Farm, Bicester.

Police have now released CCTV images of two men they want to speak to about the crimes, which happened between 6pm on Thursday, June 5, and 4am the following day.

Anyone with information should call the police hotline, 101.



Three images taken from the shop's CCTV show two men who police are keen to talk to

■ Accused are held in custody before appearing at Crown court

# Six men sent for trial over child-sex charges

**SIX men accused of involvement in child sexual exploitation have appeared at Banbury Magistrates' Court.**

The alleged victims are three girls, aged between 13 and 15 at the time they were said to have been abused.

The court heard the alleged incidents took place between 2011 and 2014 in houses near People's Park, Princess Diana Park, Banbury United Football Club, all in Banbury, and a Vauxhall Corsa car.

The defendants spoke only to confirm their names, date of birth and addresses.

None of them entered a plea. District judge Andrew Vickers refused bail for all six and ordered

By Helen Wright

them to remain in custody until they appear before Oxford Crown Court tomorrow.

Ahmed Hassan-Sule, 20, of Glyndebourne Gardens, Banbury, has been charged with nine counts of sexual activity with a child.

Said Saleh, 20, of Orchard Way Banbury, has been charged with one count of sexual activity with a child.

Mohamed Saleh, 21, of Orchard Way, Banbury, has been charged with two counts of sexual activity with a child and one count of rape of a female under 16.

Takudzwa Hova, aged 21,

originally from Zimbabwe but now of Broughton Road, Banbury, has been charged with one count of sexual activity with a child, one count of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity and one count of rape of a female under 16.

Kagiso Manase, 20, from South Africa but now of Warwick Road, Banbury, was charged with three counts of sexual activity with a child and two counts of causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.

Alexandru Nae, 19, of Broome Way, Banbury, has been charged with one count of sexual activity with a child and one count of rape of a child under 16.

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Ten-year-old Daisy Spencer with the eggs  
OX68066

## Family hope to crack a mystery egg riddle

A FAMILY got a surprise when they discovered a cluster of 15 mystery eggs in their garden.

Erika Spencer and daughter, Daisy, from Middle Aston, found the eggs underneath a shrub.

Unsure of the eggs' origin, they contacted experts at the Cotswold Wildlife Park – but even they could not identify the eggs.

The egg mystery is still puzzling the pair and they are now on a quest to determine what creature they belong to.

Mrs Spencer, 42, said: "We are really perplexed about what animal it could be."

Daisy, a pupil at Wootton-by-Woodstock Church of

England Primary School, has now put the eggs in an open box.

The ten-year-old said: "When we found the eggs I was excited."

"We have never had something like that happen to us before. It's something I will probably remember for the rest of my life."

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds wildlife advisor Danielle Meyer said: "I think they could be pheasant eggs."

"Pheasants usually nest on the ground, hidden away from any predators. They lay around 15 eggs – so the number that was found would not be unusual."



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Hussars  
during the  
marchpast



Giving the orders during the parade is Major Jeremy Burnam, commanding officer for the Royal Logistic 142 Squadron

Historic Colour changes hands at Horsefair event

# History marches on at Armed Forces Day

By Sam McGregor

PEOPLE across Oxfordshire celebrated Armed Forces Day with song, poetry and two-minutes' silence.

In Banbury troops were led by Royal Logistics Corps Band and the Corps of Drums, in a parade from Market Place to Horsefair for a trooping of the colour.

The Colour, a crimson flag dating back to 1835, was handed over by the Royal Signals Regiment to the Royal Logistic Corps reservist regiment which is taking over the Oxford Road base.

During the day the air, Army and sea cadets raised the Armed Forces Day flag at the town hall.

Town council leader Kieron Mallon said the Armed Forces Day events started at 9.30am with the raising of the flag and culminated with a performance of *Land of Hope and Glory* in St Mary's Church by Banbury Symphony Orchestra.

He said: "It was a fantastic sight to see and something we in Banbury should be justifiably proud of."



Banbury mayor Sean Woodcock speaks to soldiers from the Royal Logistic 142 Squadron, who are based in Banbury, during the trooping of their Colour in Horsefair

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**InBRIEF****Evil trickster preys on OAP**

■ AN elderly woman fell victim to a distraction burglary after a man tricked his way into her home. On Thursday, June 19, between noon and 4pm, two men were going door to door in Gillett Road, Banbury, selling items. The 87-year-old victim answered her door and a man entered, leaving behind items she did not order. He did not ask for any money. Later she noticed a large amount of cash was missing from her purse. Thames Valley Police, who only recently released the details, said the offender was described as a white man of a skinny build, about 5ft 11in tall and in his 30s. He wore shorts and a pale top. Call the police hotline, 101.

**Raid charges**

■ A MAN denied two counts of aggravated burglary when he appeared before Oxford Crown Court. Nolan Haworth, of Ribston Close, Banbury, denied carrying out the offences at Shores Green, Witney, on March 28 this year and Mold Crescent, Banbury, on November 9 last year. The 27-year-old will appear again in court on September 29 for a full trial.

**Thames Valley Police given new powers to halt alleged attackers**

# New guard to protect domestic abuse victims

**VICTIMS of domestic abuse will be given greater protection under a new scheme – similar to an ASBO.**

Thames Valley Police will have the power to prevent an alleged abusive partner from visiting certain locations or people immediately after an alleged incident, otherwise they face arrest.

A Domestic Violence Protection Notice will be imposed initially by police. It will act like a temporary

**By Hannah Bewley**

restraining order, stopping alleged attackers from going near the victim.

After this a Domestic Violence Protection Orders could be imposed at a magistrates' court 48 hours later. The can last for between 14 and 28 days.

The order is a civil matter, similar to an ASBO, meaning police can still take action, even if there is not enough evidence

for a criminal charge.

The notices and orders can stop the attacker evicting or excluding the victim from a specified address and entering or getting close to a specified address.

An offender would be arrested if any of the conditions were breached.

Chief Inspector Emma Garside said: "These notices and orders give the police and magistrates the power to protect victims of domestic violence when there isn't enough evidence to charge the

perpetrator." Under current law, bail conditions cannot be imposed if there is insufficient evidence to charge someone with a violent crime.

This can mean a perpetrator could be free to return to attack their partner or ex-partner again.

Victims will not have to write a statement or appear in court against their will for such orders.

Notices can be issued against anyone aged 18 or over who has used, or threatened to use, violence against a family member, partner or ex-partner.



**Chief Inspector Emma Garside**

## Connor's on the road to success

**YOUNG kart driver Connor Kearney knows no fear.**

At the tender age of ten, his karting career has already seen him treated in an ambulance five times – last year for a broken wrist.

But it has not put him off his high-speed sport, winning his class at the Shenington Super Prix, near Banbury.

Connor, who goes to Stanton Harcourt Primary School, said: "It

was great to win."

His secret to success? "I pretty much drive as fast as I can."

He finished ten laps of the Shenington Kart Racing Club track in a blistering time of 8min 51sec, to take the chequered flag in the Comer class – named after the engine make.

Oliver Clarke emerged the winner in the Honda class.

Connor, who has been karting for

two years, said: "It feels like you're going really fast. It is a real challenge to pass people. You have to come up with a plan in your head."

Karts at Shenington tear around the track at speeds up to 65 mph.

He admitted: "It is dangerous, but that is part of the attraction."

Connor's mother, Sarah, said: "I haven't been there when he has been taken to the trackside medical tent – so I haven't been a party to it."

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**Comer class victor Connor Kearney**

## Warning over Grand Prix traffic jams

MOTORISTS in north Oxfordshire have been advised to plan ahead and allow extra time for their journeys this weekend as the British Grand Prix is being staged at Silverstone.

The Highways Agency has said this will have a knock-on effect on traffic on the M40 through Oxfordshire as well as the M1 and A43.

Steve Parker, emergency planning officer for the Highways Agency,

said: "About 230,000 people are expected to attend the race track over the course of the three days.

"Motorists using the roads in the area over this weekend should plan their journey in advance and leave extra time, as the roads on the approach to the Silverstone circuit are likely to be busy."

Tomorrow, as well as Saturday and Sunday, the A43 will be closed to through traffic between Brackley and Towcester.

The road will be closed from 5am until 9pm each day and non-race traffic has been advised to avoid the area.

Drivers going to the British Grand Prix will be directed along one-way systems which will be reversed as traffic leaves the event.

The Highways Agency said it would be using its electronic message signs on approaching motorways, to give drivers information about any diversions.



■ First report since NHS handed over responsibility for promoting health



Dr Jonathan McWilliam

# 'Challenges' of living longer

**THE people of Oxfordshire enjoy healthy lifestyles – but longer life spans continued to put pressure on health services, the county's director of public health has revealed.**

Dr Jonathan McWilliam was speaking out after completing his first annual report since the NHS handed over responsibility for promoting good health last April.

Issues like preventing smoking, alcohol abuse and promoting diet and exercise now falls to Oxfordshire County Council.

When the NHS was founded in 1948, some 48 per cent of county residents died before 65 but that figure is now 14 per cent. On average, men now live to about 84 and women 87.

Dr McWilliam said: "We do live in a relatively healthy county. Overall health in Oxfordshire is good and this has meant that people live longer.

Compared with 100 years ago, people are living 30 years longer.

By Oliver Evans

That good news also brings in its wake some opportunities and some challenges."

He said there was mounting evidence that older people would be "more active and independent than today" but still faced medical problems and disability.

Preventing problems earlier in life was key, he said, but just 46 per cent, 19,001 people aged 40 to 74, took up an invitation for a regular five-year GP check-up.

And only 57 per cent of people, aged 60 to 74, sent back an NHS postal stool sample test for bowel cancer.

People in "rural isolation" and pressure on transport were further challenges, while funding pressures meant the council would need to "help communities to help themselves".

Yet he said public health had been "welcomed with open

arms" by the council after previously being overseen by the NHS for 40 years.

He said "strong" debate between councillors meant services that were "one size fits all" could now be tailored to different areas.

He said the ability of council committees to probe concerns were "powerful tools" and four-year instead of one-year NHS plans were "a revelation".

And Dr McWilliam said specific contracts for particular services, rather than block contracts for a range of NHS services, meant more "accurate" services.

The introduction in April of full-time nurses for all secondary schools and increasing the number of sexual health treatment and diagnosis centres from two to eight were examples of this, he said.

Dr McWilliam said: "It has been a good year to come back into local government for public health."

## InBRIEF

### Strike looms for civic staff

■ COUNCIL staff across Oxfordshire are planning to go on strike in a dispute over pay. Nearly 85,000 Unison members across the UK voted to take industrial action because of a three-year pay freeze followed by a one per cent pay rise offer. The strikers will include officers working in local government and school support staff, which includes all school workers except teachers. A date for the strike has not yet been set.

### Handout tally

■ MORE than £160,000 in grants were given out by a churches trust over the last year. The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust said in its annual report that it presented 38 grants, totalling £163,000. The trust is also seeking to boost its activities further by raising a "Heritage Fund" that it hoped would reach £3m. It also reported £127,344 was raised by its annual Ride and Stride, a bicycle ride or walk where people travel between churches for sponsorship. The trust said the activity raised almost half its annual income each year.

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## InBRIEF

### Boost to help poor pupils

■ A BOOST of more than £400,000 has been given to educate the county's under-privileged three- and four-year-olds.

Last week, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg announced that Oxfordshire would receive £403,658 in Early Years Pupil Premium Funding.

It is part of a £50m pot of money being made available in a bid to narrow the gap between young children from low-income families and their peers.

Mr Clegg said: "Boys and girls from poorer families have often already fallen 19 months behind their better-off classmates by the time they hang up their coat on the first day of school. Increasing their chances of success has got to be a top priority."

# Students 'leavers' dress up to celebrate in style



ABOVE: Banbury Academy students gather for a group picture OX68006  
BELOW: Ollie Locke is pictured with, from left, Year 11 students Becky Sleath, Alice Abrey and Jade Spencer

**MADE in Chelsea** star Ollie Locke surprised Year 11 pupils at their school prom.

He was invited to Sibford School by pupil Alice Abrey, who had helped to organise the event, held on the school grounds last Thursday.

The TV personality, a former pupil, was handed his GCSE art project when he arrived.

Alice said: "I emailed his agent to see if he would like to come along, but heard nothing.

"Then, on the evening before the event, I got a call on my mobile – and it was from Ollie himself, saying he'd love to join us.

"I couldn't believe it. "I told my fellow organisers, Becky and Jade, but we kept it a secret from everyone else so it was a big surprise on the night."

Meanwhile, the students of Banbury Academy staged their own celebration prom.

Having completed their GCSEs, they dressed up in their best clothes for a leavers' party, staged at Cherwell Edge golf course, at Chacombe.



■ Services 'safe' but schools may be affected

# County faces up to looming strikes

COUNCIL services in Oxfordshire look set to be largely unaffected by the planned council strike next month.

Members of Unison and the GMB across the UK have agreed to go on strike on Thursday, July 10, in protest over a pay offer of about one per cent.

Nationally this means about one million public sector workers, including council staff, will walk out.

By Damian Fantato

But Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council have local pay agreements, which means their staff will stay at work.

A county council spokesman, said the authority had an agreement with Unison, but not with the GMB.

He said the number of GMB employees at the county council was "small".

West Oxfordshire District Council said its staff would not be affected

because not enough employees are union members.

However, Oxfordshire will be affected by a National Union of Teachers' strike, which had already been announced for the same day, following another pay dispute.

Previous teachers' strikes have seen schools across the county close down but it is not yet known how many will be affected next month.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils did not want to comment.

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■ 'We've more important ways to spend our council budget'

# Snub for relative's cemetery complaint

By Alex Wynick

**RELATIVES, upset by grass cuttings covering their loved ones' graves, have been told by a council boss that it had "more important" priorities.**

Colleen Green complained to Hook Norton Parish Council over grass covering headstones and tyre tracks on the lawn at the village's cemetery.

Mrs Green, whose parents Madge and Colin Stockford are buried at the cemetery, said: "It's all the long dried grass. It was like a hay field. It completely covered the graves and the flowers."

"The clippings had obviously been thrown over them when the grass was mowed by contractors."

The 55-year-old mother-of-one said: "It's a disgrace and upsetting. I couldn't stop thinking about it afterwards."

"It takes a lot of courage to go to a cemetery and it needs to be a place where people can relax and have special moments."

"How can you remember those moments when you've got a grave that's covered in mown grass and hay?"

"All of the people buried there were what



**Colleen Green, who wants something done about the state of graves at Hook Norton Cemetery** OX67965

made the village of Hook Norton the place we all want to live in, and without them the village wouldn't be what it is today."

But council chairman Emma Kane said: "We

don't have the funds to completely clear the grass cuttings up."

"We have more important ways to spend our council budget."

## Concern over rise in 'sexting' cases

EDUCATION experts have called for an investigation into children "sexting" as Thames Valley Police figures show a three-fold jump in reported incidents last year, including one involving a nine-year-old.

Sexting is the sharing of sexually explicit information, such as texts or photographs, sent by mobile phones or on the Internet.

In the Thames Valley region, 51 sexting incidents concerning children under 16 were reported to police in 2013, up from 16 incidents in 2012.

This was well above the seven reported in each of 2011 and 2010.

Melinda Tilley, Oxfordshire County Council's education chief, said: "I don't know how serious it is, but we will ask the questions."

"My job is to ask if there's a problem in our schools."

Of the 89 sexting incidents reported to the force between 2010 and April this year, only four resulted in an offender being charged or served with a summons.

A Thames Valley Police spokesman said sexting involving children could "form part of a number of offences, such as inciting or engaging a child in sexual activity, grooming, possession and distribution of indecent images or abuse of position".

Ed Finch, the National Union of Teachers' assistant secretary for Oxfordshire, said that while most primary schools banned students bringing mobile phones to school, secondary schools often encouraged their students to bring mobile devices but with an explicit usage policy, such as prohibiting use during class.

New photo messaging apps such as *Snapchat* and *Facebook's Slingshot* were reporting a rapid uptake by users.



**Melinda Tilley**

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**InBRIEF****Boost for charity**

■ MORE than £15,000 has been raised by a health club for a charity that helps to promote self-esteem among cancer patients. Bannatynes Health Club, in Bodicotes Park, held a series of events, including a sponsored Yagathon, to raise money for "Look Good Feel Better". For more information visit lgfb.co.uk

■ Royal Mail and union chiefs highlight threat to traditional service

# Postal staff fear axe as delivery firms compete

By Gill Oliver

**HUNDREDS of postal workers could lose their jobs and several small post offices could close across Oxfordshire if private delivery firms start competing for Royal Mail business.**

The warning comes from union officials and Royal Mail management, who said the move could also mean the end of six-day-a-week and next-day services, with rural households being billed on a pence-per-mile basis for their post.

They accuse rivals, such as TNT Post, of "cherry picking" by delivering only to cities and towns, leaving Royal Mail with more expensive-to-serve rural areas.

But TNT denies it is a threat.

Officials from the Communications Workers' Union claim the amount of mail handled by Royal Mail could fall by a quarter, putting up to 250 jobs across the county at risk.

CWU representative Steven Gill said: "In London, Manchester and Liverpool, the effect of competition from TNT is noticeable."

"If this was to happen in Oxfordshire it could mean job losses here. There is a lot of worry among postal workers."

"Once those jobs go, the damage is done and it will be irreversible."

And local sub-postmaster Neil MacCormack said that any changes would also backfire on small post offices.

He said: "It is true that rural postal workers have to cover a greater area."

"They walk up and down farm tracks up to a mile long, while in town one person could deliver 300 letters to one block of apartments in one go."

"If anything changed, a large number of rural post offices, including my own, would be in jeopardy."

Royal Mail must deliver to all 29 million homes in the UK every day – except Sunday – under the "universal service offer", but private firms were free to deliver just twice or three times a week.

TNT Post operates in London, Manchester and Liverpool and aims to extend its reach to almost half of UK households, which is likely to include Oxfordshire, by

2017. It has also snatched lucrative business contracts – like Centrica and Vision Express – from Royal Mail.

Coming against a background of long-term decline in the number of letters being sent, as people switch to email, there are fears the challenge from private providers could prove the last straw.

Royal Mail, which was privatised last September, has called on industry regulator Ofcom to review the market.

But Nick Wells, chief executive of TNT Post, said: "TNT Post delivers less than one per cent of the mail in the UK and the regulator has repeatedly made clear that there is currently no threat to the financial stability of the universal service offer from plans from competitors to enter the UK delivery market."

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**Communications Workers' Union representative Steven Gill**



# Chiltern shines in big rail passenger survey

FEEDBACK from passengers shows that two out of the three county rail services are performing at the national average or below.

The annual National Rail Passenger Survey from the independent Passenger Organisation Passenger Focus was released last week.

Cross Country and First Great Western hit the national average of 82 or below, while Chiltern Railways was above the average.

Cross Country scored 82, after 1,129 of its passengers were surveyed – down from 85 in autumn 2013 and 84 in spring 2013.

The survey was carried out between February and April, when bad weather and flooding disrupted some services in the county.

A spokesman from Cross Country said: "Despite this, 82 per cent of our customers were satisfied with the service they received."

First Great Western scored 80 after 3,050 passengers had their say – maintaining its score from surveys in the autumn and spring of 2013.

A spokesman from First Great Western said: "We are pleased to have been able to maintain our score from last year during such a difficult period."

The report was based on feedback from 27,000 rail passengers across the UK, who were asked to rate their last journey out of a score of 100.

Chiltern Railways received a "satisfaction score" of 92 for spring 2014 after 1,146 passengers were surveyed, putting it top of rail service providers in Oxfordshire. The firm scored 89 in spring 2013 and 91 in autumn 2013.

Its managing director, Rob Brighthouse, said: "It is satisfying to be ranked top as it reflects the fact that we focus on what matters to our customers."

Health chief reveals launch of new county council campaign

# Dangers of dabbling with 'legal high' drugs

A CAMPAIGN is to be launched to warn about "legal highs", amid concerns from the county's director of public health.

Oxfordshire County Council is to launch a social media campaign about psychoactive drugs, mostly bought online.

The county's director of public health, Dr Jonathan McWilliam, has warned of the "new threat" posed by the drugs in his annual report.

Such substances are wrongly called "legal highs" as users "have no idea" what is in them, according to the council.

They can contain illegal drugs, are not tested or covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act, and often do not reflect the compounds given on the label.

Legal highs are usually powders, pills or capsules and stimulate high levels of energy or a sedated feeling or hallucinations.

The Twitter and Facebook campaign will be aimed at people aged 16 to 24, as well as their parents and health workers, to emphasise that "legal" does not mean "safe".

It will also help people find council advisors and point out the "Talk to Frank" advice service.

A "clean" graffiti campaign – where templates are cleaned on dirty walls and pavements to form a message – and a competition are also being considered.

Dr Jonathan McWilliam said: "Legal highs are really the new challenge in the drug world. It is something we need to open more eyes to in this county."

"It depends what they are legal for. They are sometimes

By Oliver Evans

legal for one purpose, but they are used for another.

"When they are called 'legal' they might be legal for veterinary care, but if a human being takes them, they have poor health consequences."

His report said Oxfordshire was "one of the few counties" where the council's trading standards unit was working with police in "meeting the challenging and new threat".

Dr McWilliam said: "We need to get good intelligence about where, when, and what types of legal highs are coming into the county."

A spokesman said the county council was looking to give "advice and guidance" to businesses and to test products sold.

Wendy Dawson, chief executive of local residential drug rehabilitation charity, the Ley Community, welcomed the move.

She said: "I am concerned. It is a massive problem. An increasing problem. People are sitting behind a computer scoring."

"We absolutely need to improve our knowledge base and education. And not just for schoolchildren, but adults too."

"There is so little knowledge on this subject. Because it is prefixed with 'legal', people think it must be safe. The message we have to get through is that it is actually very dangerous."

The council head of commissioning for drugs and alcohol, Jo Melling, said: "We are only aware of a handful of shops in Oxfordshire who sell

these products but we do know that they are not always sold openly."

"They may not be on display and they are, we believe, being sold in less obvious places, like off-licences and corner shops. If people know of places like this, we would be grateful of an email or phone call to let us know so that we can look into it."

Contact the council on [oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-trading-standards](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-trading-standards), or call 08454 040506.

ABOVE: Head of commissioning for drugs and alcohol, Jo Melling

BELOW: Director of public health, Dr Jonathan McWilliam



## War-time theme for Old Town party date

THE fifth annual old town party will take place in Banbury on Saturday, July 12, with a war-time theme.

To coincide with this year's 70th anniversary of D-Day, organisers have decided to take the party back to the 1940s.

Shopkeepers, Places and stores along the Market Place and in the Old Town Area will be dressed up and decorated to follow the theme.

There will also be big band and swing music.

There will be traditional 1940s art and games for children to join in.

Banbury Museum will provide materials to make a brass rubbing of the tokens inlaid in Parsons Street.

Singing trio The Sceptics, Sue and her Swinging Syncopators, Betsy Harmony and her wartime music, the Linden Players, will also perform in the town.

This year the event is to be sponsored by Cherwell District Council, the traders of the Old Town Association, and Castle Quay shopping centre.

The association organises the party to thank all the shoppers for supporting the Old Town throughout the event.

The free event will take place on White Lion Walk, Church Lane, Market Place, and Parsons Street, Banbury, from 11.30am to 4pm.

## WHEN HEARING MATTERS

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## MP's praise for hospital trust's turnaround

SAVINGS and the recruitment of new staff by the county's hospital authority show the service can meet efficiency demands from The Department of Health, Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said.

The Conservative said in the Commons last week: "Oxford University Hospitals

NHS Trust has managed to make multi-million pound recurring savings over the past couple of years and is now in the black."

"At the same time it has managed to create 400 new jobs in the trust, almost all of which are new doctors and nurses."

Health secretary Jeremy Hunt said abolishing primary care trusts had saved costs but Labour shadow health secretary Andy Burnham said: "The NHS is getting worse on his watch and the Government has surrendered its power to do anything about it."



# Show some love to independent Oxfordshire retailers

## Say no to clone towns

Did you know July is Independent Retailer Month? **Gill Sutherland** urges Oxfordshire shoppers to ditch identikit shops and avoid chain store slavery

It's often said that all the high streets in the UK are beginning to look like one another. And it's no wonder, what with all the major brands occupying most of our high street shop fronts. The likes of McDonald's, Tesco, New Look, Marks & Spencer etc are often the only retailers that can buck economic trends and afford the high rents and rates.

Since 2004 the New Economics Foundation (NEF) has warned that the UK is turning into a nation of "clone towns". "So what," you might think, "I love shopping at all those brands!" But what happens when all that's left are these mega brands?

As NEF policy director Andrew Simms has warned, this could lead to a nightmare scenario. "The aesthetic impact really does matter to people if you live in an identikit environment, because people draw their own identity from their environment and it's rather depressing to travel from town to town and find they're all the same."

Not only does this mean as consumers we have less choice about where to buy, but it means that Oxford and other county towns will start to look the same – which could have a huge impact on the morale of local

people. It could also have a devastating impact on tourism – why come to a place that looks like any other? And consequently it could be detrimental to the people whose livelihood depends on Oxford's millions of annual visitors and holidaymakers.

Mr Simms explains that even if stores used signs, there is still huge economic significance of a high street ruled by big brands. Money spent in local independent shops is more likely to stay in the local economy, and not only that, explains Mr Simms – local shops act as "social glue".

"The shopkeeper becomes the holder of memories and knowledge for the local community," he says.

Think of how important local corner shops are to a community, or the superior service you get at shops run by people who own them. How depressing would it be if they were to close? With your help they won't have to. You needn't stop shopping at the big chain stores, but just try to shop at local, independent shops sometimes too!

▲ Website [independentshops.co.uk](http://independentshops.co.uk) includes a directory of Oxfordshire shops and details about their campaigns.

♥ Florist Matthew Taylor of Oxford independent Fabulous Flowers – with one of his intricate 1930s inspired creations



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# CakeLeisure

banburycake.co.uk/leisure

## 'The day we decided to launch a theatre'

WHEN Tamara and John Malcolm saw the "for sale" sign as they passed Spring Street's old Chipping Norton Salvation Army citadel they made an instant decision: "We're going to buy that building, and turn it into a theatre."

Mrs Malcolm said: "It had always been a running gag between us: 'We'll have our tea, and after that we'll build a theatre!'"

"So, we went and saw the owner, and asked how much he wanted."

The price-tag was £6,500 – but he was negotiating with a potential buyer who was hoping to turn the building into a plastics factory.

But it was still up for sale some months later.

Mr and Mrs Malcolm contacted a rich friend, who dealt in property, and asked if he could buy the building and give them six

By Giles Woodforde

months to find the money. Mrs Malcolm said: "On my daughter's first birthday, November 17, 1973, we had our first cake stall in the Market Place, and started raising money from there."

As Tamara is the first to admit, the whole project was helped by buckets of luck – to use her own phrase. When it came to applying for planning permission, for instance, West Oxfordshire District Council had only just been formed.

"If they hadn't been in such a muddle, there is no way they would have given permission. The idea that you could have a theatre joined up to houses in a residential street, with no proper vehicle access, and no parking – it was just

nonsense!"

But permission was granted, and work got under way.

Eight volunteers shifted 42 tons of stone and earth out of the stage area, and six more re-roofed the theatre with 18 tons of soundproofing material. Once opened, The Theatre became famous for its annual pantomime, which went on to celebrate its 40th anniversary with 79 performances of *Cinderella* last year. The first Chippy panto, with a run of just four performances, was staged in the Town Hall the year before The Theatre was ready. The show has become a national phenomenon – no other town the size of Chipping Norton has produced its own professional panto every year for so long.

Now the Theatre has reached its own 40th birthday and, as part of the celebrations, it is

staging what is described as: "The silliest, most suicidal feat of daring ever attempted in the history of panto – to write, rehearse, and perform a 60-minute pantomime within a single 48 hour period". Called *Summer Panto Chaos*, the show will rely heavily on the talents of many Chippy panto favourites, amongst them musical director Peter Pontzen.

He said: "I think the idea is great fun – and very frightening."

"My first impression will be at 4pm today, and the first performance will be exactly 48 hours later. I don't know how many people will be writing the music or the lyrics. I only know I will be writing some of the music – I don't think I could write it all, because there's got to be some rehearsal time as well."

Hopefully the experience will calm Mr Pontzen's nerves, as his Chippy panto pedigree goes back a long way. "The first one was in 1979. My wife, Libby, and I had done our music hall show at Chippy several times by then. She was cast as principal boy, and I was musical director. Then it was discovered that Libby was becoming visibly pregnant, so the casting had to be changed at the last minute. She became the fairy godmother instead."

And Peter's most abiding Chippy panto memory so far?

"The piano has usually been at the front of the auditorium, vertically below the edge of the balcony. Sitting at the piano, on many occasions I've found that my bald head is ideal for kids who want to drop their sweet wrappers on to a live target, especially while I'm playing a tune!"

*Summer Panto Chaos* is at The Theatre, Chipping Norton, today and tomorrow. For tickets, call 01608 642350 or see [chippingnortontheatre.com](http://chippingnortontheatre.com)



FLASHBACK: Tamara Malcolm outside The Theatre, Chipping Norton, in 2000

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



ABOVE: The old Chipping Norton Salvation Army citadel as it was in 1973

RIGHT: The interior of The Theatre, Chipping Norton, as it is today



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# Film offers a palatable range of Cuban flavours

**CHEF** (15, 114 mins)

Drama/comedy/romance. Jon Favreau, Emjay Anthony, John Leguizamo, Sofia Vergara, Bobby Cannavale, Oliver Platt, Scarlett Johansson, Dustin Hoffman, Robert Downey Jr. Director: Jon Favreau.

If food be the music of love, then *Chef* composes a mouth-watering symphony of Cuban flavours to delight the palate of World Cup-weary audiences, who crave a heart-warming drama garnished with gentle humour.

Written and directed by Jon Favreau, this uplifting confection works to a tried and tested recipe of triumph against adversity, and taps into the rising popularity of food trucks as a lunchtime hang-out for famished American office workers.

Snappily-edited scenes of high-quality produce being transformed into plates of calorie-loaded deliciousness make any hot dogs, nachos and popcorn from the concessions stand look bland by comparison.

Be grateful that the Smell-O-Vision and AromaRama systems, which heightened the immersive experience of films by releasing scents into the theatre, never gained traction otherwise *Chef*'s 114-minute running time would be exquisite, stomach-rumbling agony.

By the end credits, my appetite was well and truly whetted for one of the film's Cubano-pressed sandwiches, filled with juicy roast pork, boiled ham and molten Swiss cheese.

The culinary wizard responsible

for this raging hunger is Carl Casper (Favreau), who is the star attraction at a Los Angeles restaurant owned by Riva (Dustin Hoffman).

Prestigious food critic Ramsey Michel (Oliver Platt), who reportedly sold his online blog for \$10m, makes a reservation at the restaurant and Carl excitedly plans a new tasting menu with sous chef Tony (Bobby Cannavale), line cook Martin (John Leguizamo) and sassy hostess Molly (Scarlett Johansson).

"You know what I would do? Play your hits," argues Riva and he forces Carl to revert to his signature dishes.

Ramsey's poor review, which berates Carl for resting on his laurels, ignites a bitter war of words on *Twitter*.

"You wouldn't know a good meal if it sat on your face!" the chef informs Ramsey.

Their argument spirals out of control and Carl publicly quits his job.

Ex-wife Inez (Sofia Vergara) invites Carl to accompany her and their young son, Percy (Emjay Anthony), to Miami to reconnect with his roots.

In familiar surroundings, Carl entertains Inez's canny suggestion of a food truck and the chef transforms a worn-out vehicle into a mobile eatery par excellence with help from Percy and Martin.

*Chef* wears its heart on its olive oil-spattered sleeve, establishing an emotional divide between Carl and his son, which might be bridged as they spend valuable time together on the road.

Social media assumes a pivotal



A scene from *Chef*, with Jon Favreau and Sofia Vergara

Picture: PA Photo/Lionsgate

role in the script and Favreau employs sparing visual effects to illustrate how Percy builds word of mouth for the food truck by harnessing the power of the Internet.

Favreau and Anthony are an adorable pairing, and Robert Downey Jr injects ribald humour to his fleeting scenes as Inez's germ-phobic first ex-husband.

Heartfelt scenes of confession and reconciliation ensure tears flow as freely as the overpriced vino from Riva's cellar.

## CakeWhat's on

### Music

#### FRIDAY

**New Inn, Main Road, Middleton Cheney:** Keiran Ryan. Acoustic vocal guitarist returns for another great night at this popular music venue. 9pm. 01295 710399.

**SATURDAY: Lampit Arms**

**TADURDAY:** Nikki Petherick. Singer and guitarist returns by popular demand. Free. 9pm. 01295 780070.

**St John the Evangelist, Iffley Road, Oxford:** Oxford Pro Musica Singers and the Oxford Sinfonia will perform the Sunrise Mass by the young Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. The concert, also includes works by Finzi, Bairstow, Dyson and Karl Jenkins. 7.30pm. £15, student and under-18 £8.

#### SUNDAY

**Exeter College Chapel, Turl Street, Oxford:** Baroque Music by Candlelight: Le Concert des Nations. Award-winning Charivari Agréable take a musical Grand Tour of the major royal courts of

Europe: Dresden, London, Vienna, Berlin & Versailles. Music by Bach, Couperin, Telemann, Handel, Vivaldi & Zelenka. Sarah Ibbett (baroque violin), Jane Downer (recorder and baroque oboe), Mike Brain (baroque bassoon), Kah-Ming Ng (harpsichord). 8pm. £16, £15 (seniors), £10 (full-time students). 01865 305305.

### Events

#### SATURDAY

**Boot:** Aerodrome, A4421 Bicester to Buckingham Road, Finmere. Refreshments and facilities available. From 7am. 07850 912181.

**Dinosaur Day:** Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Fossil casting, excavate a fossil, make a dinosaur mask, dinosaur story telling, walk in dinosaur footprints, dinosaur bone and fossil identification. Meet Dean Lomax, author of *Dinosaurs of the British Isles*, who will be telling us more about dinosaurs 12.15-12.45pm. 01993 811456.

### Independence Day celebration:

Sulgrave Manor, Manor Road, Sulgrave, Banbury. A centenary year for these celebrations. The battle re-enactment group are booked for this annual Anglo-American day of fun. All-American bbq, Harley-Davidsons, cheer leaders, live music, childrens' activities, exhibition of Native American artefacts, New George Washington exhibition, live musket fire and as much Mississippi Mud Pie as you can eat. Some activities carry additional charge but admission is £3.50 child £1.50, family £10 (2+4). 11am-4pm. 01295 760205.

#### MONDAY

**Bike night:** High Street, Ludgershall. With air ambulance, pig roast, fish & chips, bar, tea stalls and motorcycle-related stalls. Rock 'n' Roll music from Brill 1449 radio station. All welcome. Free. Please support this charity event. From 6pm. 01844 237222.

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# CakeSport

[banburycake.co.uk/sport](http://banburycake.co.uk/sport)

## Good start is washed away

**BANBURY'S batsmen made hay while the sun shone in their Serious Cricket Home Counties Premier League Division One derby clash at home to Oxford on Saturday.**

But unluckily for the hosts, the sun did not shine long enough and their contest was abandoned shortly after Oxford began their reply.

Following a delayed start, the match was reduced in overs, with Banbury scheduled to receive 45 rather than 60 after being put in.

Openers Lloyd Sabin and Dan Harris made the most of some wayward bowling from Mark Beer, while Stuart Hole kept it

tight at the other end. The openers put on 88 before Harris fell to lbw Shami Mendis for 41.

This was the first of five wickets for the spinner, even though he did concede at five runs per over.

Sabin went on to get 60 of 93 balls with one six and 11 fours. Craig Haupt bustled the score along with 42 off 64 deliveries.

Rapid scoring at the end from Richard West, who hit 30 off 13 balls, took the hosts to an impressive 224-5. Mendis was the pick of the bowlers with 5-70.

Oxford lost Brad Sutherland for 13 to Ashley Blanchard, but shortly afterwards, with the score on 28-1, the players were driven off the field by rain, never to return.

### BANBURY

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| L Sabin c Davies b Mendis   | 60  |
| D Harris lbw Mendis   | 41  |
| C Haupt c Sutherland b Mendis   | 42  |
| N Hawkes c Davies b Mendis  | 12  |
| J Cater c Vainker b Mendis  | 24  |
| R West not out  | 30  |
| L Ryan not out  | 6   |
| Extras  | 9   |
| Total (5 wkts, 45 ovs)  | 224 |
| Fall: 1-88, 2-131, 3-149, 4-174, 5-198.   |     |
| Bowling: Hole 7-4-13-0, Beer 10-1-64-0, Vainker 10-0-49-0, Mendis 14-1-70-5, Sutherland 4-0-22-0. |     |

### OXFORD

|   |    |
|---|----|
| B Sutherland c Sabin b Blanchard                | 13 |
| V Perera not out                                | 12 |
| S Laudat not out                                | 0  |
| Extras  | 3  |
| Total (1 wkt, 6.4 ovs)                          | 28 |
| Fall: 1-24.                                     |    |
| Bowling: Banbury 3.4-0-19-0, Blanchard 3-1-9-1. |    |

● Banbury 6pts, Oxford 6

## Banbury cruise into the semi-finals of league cup

**BANBURY made light work of beating Gerrards Cross to reach the last four of the Home Counties Premier League Twenty20 Cup on Sunday.**

Batting first, visitors Banbury soon lost openers Lloyd Sabin and Nathan Hawkes, but Dan Harris held their innings with 42 from 38 balls, including a six and four fours.

This helped Banbury reach 116-8 from their reduced tally of 18 overs.

The home side were soon struggling at 42-7 as Ashley Blanchard, Ollie Wright and Richard West swept through the top order.

Skipper Jimmy Phillips finished with 3-16 as Cross fell for 75 in 14.5 overs to give Banbury a 41-run win.

● Great & Little Tew gave High Wycombe a walkover in their quarter-final tie.



Banbury's Nathan Hawkes

**BanburyCake**



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ABTA  
The Travel Association

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### ARIES

**Mar 21-Apr 19**

Someone new to your circle will be having quite an effect on your head and heart in the coming days. Try not to cast judgement on a work situation until Friday when you have had the chance to witness how far others are willing to go in your defence. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised my friend. Ring now to hear why this is a week of family revelations for your sign.

0906 585 4360

### LIBRA

**Sep 23-Oct 22**

This week, your social life starts to get more hectic and you have to make a decision whether it is work or play that is your priority. Don't waste the hard work you've already done Libra. It is clear you want to blow off some steam but try to reach a happy medium and rein yourself in as and when you need to. You'll feel so much more in control if you do. Call now so I can help you.

0906 585 4366

### TAURUS

**Apr 20-May 20**

This week, you would be wise to believe nothing of what you hear and only half of what you see. Many of the signs are talking for the sake of it and, with a reckless influence from Mercury, it is clear that you will be experiencing some setbacks. Go with the flow and show how good you are at adapting to forced changes. Call now for backup and to hear which sign can keep your secrets well.

0906 585 4361

### SCORPIO

**Oct 23-Nov 21**

Don't burn your bridges and say things for effect to those who have hurt you or you will lose any chance you stand of hearing the apologies you're due. Someone you thought was going to let you down at the weekend pleasantly surprises you, but don't give them too much room to make more mistakes or you'll regret it. Overtime you do now pays dividends. Ring now for your week in full.

0906 585 4367

### GEMINI

**May 21-Jun 20**

Don't accept facts and figures which are placed before you this week, but do do your own research and your own sums for that matter. Someone you thought was not interested in you has had a change of heart. Be prepared to hear words you had almost given up on. It's important you stick to family plans. In fact, an important relationship insists upon it. Call now so I can reveal your true calling.

0906 585 4362

### SAGITTARIUS

**Nov 22-Dec 21**

Some of your sign will be making a crossover in their career, but you'll still need to keep past links open to ensure plenty of future opportunity. What I see for Sagittarius is a successful mixing of past and present. I know you may feel that you want to keep them separate, but don't. Keeping them open is the key to you making it in the fashion and manner you'd dreamed of. Ring now for insight.

0906 585 4368

### CANCER

**Jun 21-Jul 22**

You seem to be lost for words. This is quite unlike you. Could it be that you have finally met your match? Events that appear to be happening over the coming seven days will shape much of your future. You're willing to compromise as never before. You're also making your mind up about what and who's important to you. Ring now for details of this life changing few days ahead of you.

0906 585 4363

### CAPRICORN

**Dec 22-Jan 19**

A new attraction starts to pick up the pace and you start to realise that life doesn't have to be boring and predictable. They do say love and opportunity come when you least expect them and that is exactly the case for many of you Capricorns this week and indeed month. A good week to kick bad habits. Even those you've tried to stop before but failed. Ring now for an exciting financial prediction.

0906 585 4369

### LEO

**Jul 23-Aug 22**

What you thought to be fact could turn out to be fiction. Be prepared to be flexible, especially where finances and contracts are concerned. The planet Venus offers you some lovely opportunities to clear any difficult air which may have been present, so take full advantage throughout this week. Aries and Virgos tell in business, so beware. Call to hear how Jupiter is about to spice up your day to day life.

0906 585 4364

### AQUARIUS

**Jan 20-Feb 18**

There is a really lucky feel to your chart this week which makes it possible for you to knock on doors which you thought would not open to you with confidence. Why? Because you've learnt the lessons you've needed and you've eaten your humble pie. A new flirtation comes at a price. Find out what it is before and not after you indulge any further. Ring now, we really need to talk.

0906 585 4370

### VIRGO

**Aug 23-Sep 22**

You've come so far this year my friend and I hope you are as proud of yourself as I am of you. Something you thought could be a help to your life could in fact turn out to be more of a hindrance. Don't be afraid to backtrack, even if it means putting someone's nose out of joint. What you want is important too you know. Call to hear how foreign links bring luck to your life now.

0906 585 4365

### PISCES

**Feb 19-Mar 20**

You may think it's the case of better the devil you know, but I think it's time you raised the stakes and asked for and expected more from those around you. After all Pisces, if you don't think you're worth it, then why should others? A more positive mood and phase you enter from Thursday enables you to feel worthy of a better future. Embrace this emotion. Ring now to gain control.

0906 585 4371



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### 1 ARTICLES FOR SALE

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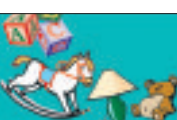
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